latest technology will not be introduced for a long time in different sectors;

(c) whether Government are aware that in the fast changing world of new technologies specially in electronics and computers etc. full depreciation has to be given in a short period or else Indian entrepreneurs will be left behind;

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to tackle the situation; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The Government considers various aspects of Direct Tax provisions as part of annual Budget Exercise. The Government's response, if any, in this regard will be contained in the annual Budget Proposals for the year 2000-2001.

(b) to (e) In view of the above, answers to parts (b), (c), (d) and (e) do not arise.

Exemption to Pondicherry from Uniform Sales Tax

543. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would exempt Union Territory of Pondicherry from "Uniform Sales Tax", since Pondicherry is mainly depending on income from Sales Tax; and

(b) if not, whether there is any proposal to give financial assistance to Pondicherry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Sir, no such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Pondicherry being a Union Territory gets its total financial requirements from the Government of India.